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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104049

E.O. 11652;GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, UN

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SWEDISH MINISTER ECKERBERG

REF: A) USUN 1121 B) DAMASCUS 1303

SUMMARY: SWEDISH EMBASSY MINISTER ECKERBERG MET WITH IO
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN BAKER, APRIL 21, TO DISCUSS
UN ISSUES. AFTER DISCUSSION OF U.S. RESPONSE TO SWEDISH
HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSAL ON POLITICAL PRISONERS (REPORTED
SEPTEL), BAKER REVIEWED INSTANCES OF U.S. DISAPPOINTMENT
WITH SWEDISH VOTING POSITIONS AND TACTICS IN SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATES IN 1976. HE NOTED THAT SWEDISH VOTES:
(A)HAD RESULTED IN PLO BEING SEATED IN COUNCIL IN DECEMBER
AND JANUARY WITH THE SAME RIGHTS AS A MEMBER STATE; (B)PRE-
VENTED US FROM NEGOTIATING SOME REFERENCE TO CUBAN
INTERVENTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON ANGOLA;
AND (C)MEANT DEFEAT OF JAPANESE EFFORT TO ASSURE A COUNCIL
RESOLUTION ON TIMOR WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INDONESIAN
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TROOP WITHDRAWAL HAD ALREADY BEGUN. BAKER URGED

CONSULTATION WITH AND COOPERATION OF SWEDES IN KEY SC MEETINGS COMING UP ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN MAY AND POSSIBLY JUNE AND NAMIBIA IN AUGUST. ECKERBERG INQUIRED OF U.S. POSITION ON APPLICATION OF VIETNAM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN UN AND WAS TOLD U.S. HAD NOT YET TAKEN POSITION ON THIS. END SUMMARY.

1. MIDDLE EAST: BAKER REITERATED OUR KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SWEDEN'S VOTE TO PERMIT THE PLO TO PARTICIPATE AS A STATE IN SC MEETING IN DECEMBER 1975 AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS POSITION IN JANUARY 1976 DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. BAKER NOTED THAT A BAD PRECEDENT HAD BEEN SET AND REGRETTED THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN AS CONCERNED AS THE U.S.

2. ANGOLA: BAKER EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SWEDEN'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE KEY NINTH VOTE IN ADOPTION OF MARCH 31 RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA HAD PREVENTED POSSIBILITY OF RESOLUTION BALANCED BY SOME REFERENCE TO CUBA. WHILE THE U.S. SHARED SWEDEN'S OPPOSITION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE IN ANGOLA, WE ALSO FELT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PROPER FOR RESOLUTION TO REFER AS WELL TO CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA INASMUCH AS THERE WAS NO MORE LEGAL BASIS FOR IT THAN FOR UNINVITED SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHICH SWEDEN HAD PROPERLY CONDEMNED. BAKER REMINDED ECKERBERG OF U.S. CONCERN WITH CUBAN INTERVENTION AS EXPRESSED IN SECRETARY'S MANY STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT IN VIEW OF SWEDEN'S INTEREST IN AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE FROM EXTRA-CONTINENTAL INFLUENCE SWEDEN HAD BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT A RESOLUTION WHICH ONLY RECALLED IN A PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH THE PRINCIPLE THAT NO STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN THE EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER STATE. BAKER STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SWEDEN HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION AFTER THIS PARAGRAPH WAS INCLUDED BY THE NON-ALIGNED CO-SPONSORS. WE FELT THAT ANOTHER PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH WHICH REAFFIRMED THE RIGHT OF A GOVERNMENT TO SOLICIT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE HAD CANCELLED OUT VALUE OF THIS PARAGRAPH BY IMPLYING THAT CUBAN PRESENCE HAD BEEN INVITED BY A RECOGNIZED STATE. CONFIDENTIAL

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ECKERBERG SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PARTICULAR PARAGRAPHS IN QUESTION BUT WOULD CHECK ON THEM. HE ADDED THAT SWEDEN HAD ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT OPPOSING CUBA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

3. TIMOR: BAKER SAID THAT WE WERE PUZZLED BY SWEDEN'S ABSTENTION ON A JAPANESE AMENDMENT TO A NON-ALIGNED DRAFT IN THE APRIL 23 TIMOR DEBATE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

HAD SWEDEN FAVORED IT AND WOULD HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED INDONESIA'S WITHDRAWAL OF ITS FORCES FROM TIMOR. SWEDEN, HOWEVER, JOINED THE USSR, TANZANIA, ROMANIA AND GUYANA IN ABSTAINING, WHILE ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT EXCEPT BENIN WHICH OPPOSED AND CHINA WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE. ECKERBERG SAID HE WAS ALSO UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THIS RESOLUTION BUT

SAID THAT THE GOS HAD CONSIDERED ALL OF THE RECENT SC ISSUES CAREFULLY BEFORE VOTING. ECKERBERG SAID THAT NONE OF THE RESOLUTIONS MENTIONED CONTAINED IDEAL LANGUAGE AND THAT NONE INVOLVED CLEAR-CUT, EASY DECISIONS FOR SWEDEN. HE PROMISED TO REPORT OUR VIEWS TO THE GOS AND TO REPORT ANY REACTIONS TO US.

4. FUTURE SC MEETINGS: BAKER STRESSED THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING AND REVIEW OF THESE THREE ISSUES WAS TO UNDERLINE OUR DESIRE FOR CONSULTATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH SWEDES AT UN. HE SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS CAN BE BEST CONDUCTED IN NEW YORK, BUT WE WERE ALSO PREPARED TO HERE TO SUPPLEMENT THESE AS NEEDED. HE POINTED OUT THAT WE EXPECT SOME SENSITIVE ISSUES TO COME UP IN THE SC IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE UNDOF EXTENSION MUST BE RENEWED IN MAY, AND WE HOPE THAT SWEDEN, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH PEACEKEEPING PROBLEMS, WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO SUPPORT EXTENSION OF THE UNDOF MANDATE. ECKERBERG AGREED WITH BAKER THAT THE SYRIANS WANT THE UNDOF MANDATE EXTENDED, BUT WILL PROBABLY WISH AN EXCUSE FOR AGREEING TO THE RENEWAL. BAKER CONCLUDED BY MENTIONING POSSIBILITY OF SC DEBATE ON REPORT OF UNGA PALESTINE COMMITTEE IN JUNE AND DEBATE ON NAMIBIA IN AUGUST ON BOTH OF WHICH WE DESIRE U.S.-SWEDISH COOPERATION IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITY OF THESE ISSUES.

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5. VIETNAM: ECKERBERG BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF U.S. POSITION ON APPLICATION OF VIETNAM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN UN. HE CITED RECENT ELECTION IN VIETNAM AND ASKED HOW U.S. WOULD REACT AT NEXT UNGA TO SINGLE VIETNAM APPLICATION. BAKER SAID THAT USG WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT IT THEN AND THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT NOW WHAT OUR POSITION WOULD BE. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH BRIEF REVIEW OF U.S. POSTURE OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CAUSED BY RACISM RESOLUTION IN 30TH UNGA. BAKER NOTED SWEDEN HAD BEEN SOLIDLY WITH US IN OPPOSING THIS DEPLORABLE RESOLUTION.

6. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY STOCKHOLM TO REVIEW U.S.-SWEDISH COOPERATION IN

SC WITH GOS IN FIRST HALF OF MAY WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS
ON PAVING WAY FOR SWEDISH COOPERATION IN UNDOF RENEWAL
DEBATE. RELEVANT MESSAGES WHICH MAY PROVIDE HELPFUL
BACKGROUND ARE REFERENCED AND ARE BEING REPEATED TO
EMBASSY. SISCO

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